

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-07 AGRE-00 L-03 EB-08
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00 AID-05
SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02 OMB-01
DOE-15 XMB-02 JUSE-00 /128 W
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R 270742Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7890
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR MTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, MTN, TW
SUBJECT: US-ROC NEGOTIATIONS: PREPARATIONS FOR SECOND
ROUND

REF: STATE 135373

1. STATUS OF ROC PREPARATIONS FOR SECOND SESSION OF BI-
LATERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS WAS DISCUSSED WITH VICE MINISTER
Y. T. WONG JUNE 22. BOUND VOLUMES OF U.S. OFFER AND RE-
QUEST LISTS WITH CHINESE ANNOTATIONS HAVE BEEN PREPARED
(ONE COPY OF EACH WAS GIVEN TO EMBASSY). WONG HAS BRIEFED
PREMIER Y. S. SUN AND THE EXECUTIVE YUAN AND WILL SOON CON-
SULT WITH AFFECTED INDUSTRIES. HE EXPECTS ROC WILL BE
READY TO RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN MID-JULY.

2. IN HIS BRIEFINGS, Y. T. WONG HAS ADVANCED THE CONCEPT
THAT NOW IS THE TIME FOR ROC TO IMPLEMENT AN OPEN MARKET
POLICY EVEN IF LOWERING TARIFFS SUBSTANTIALLY RESULTS IN
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DEMISE OF UNECONOMIC INDUSTRIES IN ROC. ANOTHER FACTOR HE
STRESSED IS ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF TRADE WITH U.S. TO ROC.

3. WONG IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP OF MTN NE-
GOTIATIONS AND THE MFN PRINCIPLE TO THE US-ROC BILATERAL
TALKS. EMBOFF EXPLAINED THAT U.S. FOLLOWS AN UNCONDITIONAL
MOST-FAVORED-NATION POLICY. Y. T. WONG'S CONCERN WAS THAT

OTHER TRADING PARTNERS OF ROC SHOULD GIVE ROC BENEFITS OF DUTY REDUCTIONS GRANTED TO U.S. AND THIRD COUNTRIES IN THE MTN.

4. ACCORDING TO WONG, TIME AND PLACE OF SECOND ROUND OF US-ROC TRADE TALKS WOULD PROBABLY BE SAN FRANCISCO FROM MID-JULY TO MID-AUGUST. IF THIS NOT POSSIBLE, THEN WASHINGTON SOMETIME IN EARLY SEPTEMBER. HE DID, HOWEVER, REITERATE THAT U.S. NEGOTIATING TEAM HAS STANDING INVITATION TO COME TO TAIWAN FOR THE SECOND ROUND. U.S. CHIEF NEGOTIATOR LANDE HAD REPORTEDLY RULED OUT TAIPEI BECAUSE OF BUSY SCHEDULE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES.

5. ROC HAS NO PROBLEM WITH U.S. OFFERS, BUT THERE IS SOME PUZZLEMENT OVER VALUE TO U.S. OF SOME REQUESTS; FOR EXAMPLE, CUTTLEFISH AND GINSENG. EMBOFF EXPRESSED OPINION THAT REQUEST LIST NOT SET IN CONCRETE AND THAT AGRICULTURAL ITEMS LIKE HIGH-QUALITY BEEF MAY BE ADDED. WONG UNDERSTANDS THAT IF ROC MAKES SIGNIFICANT CUTS IN REQUEST LIST, U.S. OFFER LIST WILL BE CUT BACK PARI PASSU. HE CONVEYED IMPRESSION THAT ROC CAN ACCEPT REQUEST LIST SUBSTANTIALLY AS IT IS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON TIMING OF EMBASSY REVIEW OF REQUEST LIST. THOROUGH GOING REVIEW OF TARIFF ITEMS COULD BEST AWAIT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PUBLICATION OF DETAILED 1977 FOREIGN TRADE STATISTICS WHICH ORIGINALLY DUE OUT IN LATE MAY AND NOW EXPECTED BY FIRST WEEK OF JULY. UNGER

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NNN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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